

Introduction: Issue 5

Aims and Scope

The European Journal of Policing Studies is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles addressing the topic of *policing* and *police studies* in the broad sense. EJPS aims to provide insights into contemporary policing debates. It focuses on issues that are of interest to the police and other policing actors, and that shape (the future of) policing.

It offers contributions in a broad domain, including contemporary academic (empirical) research on policing (by the police as well as other actors), phenomena that may be of interest to policing actors, education, policing strategies and styles, accountability and democratic rights, legal and political developments and policing policy and practice.

With its primary aim of disclosing European research into, views on and analyses of policing to the international community, EJPS wants to reach both policing researchers and practitioners. In its ambition to help overcome the language barrier, EJPS aims to disclose research from countries which often remain out of sight in publications and also applauds international comparative research.

The Journal concentrates on contributions from European countries, but contributions from other countries are also welcomed, if they provide added value for the European context. EJPS aspires to have an international reach and the editors aim for inclusion in the Thomson Reuters database (Web of Science). It is published four times a year, aiming for a combination of mixed issues (dealing with several topics, consisting of proactive submissions) and special issues (focused on a specific theme and hosted by one or more guest editor(s)).

EJPS offers quick but thorough review procedures through the expert guidance of an international editorial board and invites authors to submit their articles through the online web application.

As from its fourth issue, EJPS presents “Country Updates”, providing readers with the latest news on police, policing and police research in each country or region that is connected to the journal through our board of regional editors.

Current Issue

This issue of the European Journal of Policing Studies is our first special issue, focusing on the central theme “Policing European Metropolises”. The issue’s guest editors are Paul Ponsaers (Belgium), Adam Edwards (UK), Amadeu Recasens i Brunet (Portugal) and Antoinette Verhage (Belgium). In the five articles of this special issue, authors analyse the plural policing constellations and complexes in metropolises of five different countries: Bulgaria, France, Germany, Spain and the UK. This implies that this special issue takes us for a tour through five important European metropolises: Berlin, Sofia, London, Paris and Barcelona. We leave it to the editors, in the editors’ introduction, to explain how this remarkable issue came about and which comparative challenge they wanted to undertake.

We strongly believe that plural policing is a topic that should be explored further in policing studies and are therefore thrilled that the first steps toward systematic data gathering on this topic have

been taken within the context of the European Journal of Policing Studies, which aims to be a beacon for policing research. We hope that this special issue on policing European metropolises can spark the interest of researchers to take up the challenge of studying the pluralisation of policing.

Besides the five articles of the special issue, *country updates* are presented for Germany and Norway.

September 2014,

Antoinette VERHAGE, Editor

Lieselot BISSCHOP & Wim HARDYNS, Assistant Editors